

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 14340 081219Z

51

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-02 DODE-00 L-02 AID-10 IO-03 DPW-01

PRS-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 /079 W

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R 081112Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5707

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14340

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 8 AUGUST 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA BEING REPEATED.

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 0374

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR3 SITREP- 8 AUGUST 1973

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR3 DECLINED SHARPLY IN 48 HOUR PERIOD
ENDING 0800 AUGUST 8. THERE WERE CLASHES REPORTED, BUT OF
THESE 29 OCCURRED IN FIRST 24 HOUR PERIOD AND ONLY 11 IN THE
SECOND. THERE WERE EIGHT GROUND ATTACKS, 23 ATTACKS BY FIRE
(THREE OVER 20 ROUNDS), ONE COMBINED FIRE/GROUND ATTACK, SIX
MINING/GRENADE DETONATIONS (ONE CIVILIAN) AND TWO RAILROAD
MININGS (EAST OF XUAN LOC, LONG KHANH ON AUGUST 6). GVN LOST
16 KILLED, 21 WOUNDED (FIVE CIVILIANS), ONE PSDF MISSING, THREE
M-16S, TWO GAS PUMPS DESTROYED. COMMUNISTS LOST SEVEN KIA, FIVE
SUSPECTS ARRESTED, AND SOME EQUIPMENT. NINE OF INCIDENTS OCCURRED
IN PHUOC TUY, EIGHT IN BINH DUONG, SIX IN LONG KHANH, FIVE

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 14340 081219Z

EACH IN PHUOC LONG AND LONG AN, THREE IN TAY NINH, AND TWO EACH

IN HAU NGHIA AND GIA DINH. 43RD REGIMENT PRIVATE HUYNH VAN NHON, WHO WAS CAPTURED NOVEMBER 1972 BY COMMUNISTS, ESCAPED A COMMUNIST DETENTION CAMP AND RETURNED TO TRA PHI PF OUTPOST OUTSIDE TAY NINH CITY.

2. MR3 G-2 LTC BINH TOLD DAO/RLO MORNING AUGUST 8 THAT PHUOC LONG CONVOY WAS STILL AWAITING GO SIGNAL FROM JGS. HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW WHETHER THE 100 LOADED TRUCKS ARE AT THIS MOMENT SITTING IN CAM RANH PREPARED TO MOVE OUT ON ORDERS, AND INDEED THERE IS LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARY REGIONS AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MR3 AND CONVOY.

3. ILTC BINH POOH-POOHED LAST WEEK'S AIR AMERICA PILOT REPORT OF A SOVIET-TYPE HELICOPTER NORTH OF SONG BE. HE SAID TPJMC HELICOPTERS OFTEN FLY UNFILED TREE-TOP LEVEL FLIGH PLANS THROUGHOUT THE REGION TO SPOT CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, AND HE THOUGHT AIR AMERICA PILOT MUST HAVE MIS-IDENTIFIED THE FLYING OBJECT HE SAW. BINH ADMITTED BIEN HOA AIR BASE RADAR ALERTED TO UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT FLYING IN PHUOC LONG LAST WEEK, BUT HAD NO CONFIRMATION AND BELIEVED IT WAS VNAF.

4. PHUOC TUY HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE MILITARILY THIS WEEK, WITH 25 CLASHES REPORTED. PROVINCE CHIEF LTC HUYNH BUU SON TOLD CONSUL MORNING AUGUST 8 THAT HE THINKS CLASHES ARE CAUSED BY MISUNDERSTANDING; WHEN HE SENT ARVN ENGINEER COMPANY TO IMPROVE INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 23 BETWEEN DAT DAO AND XUYEN MOC DISTRICT TOWNS, COMMUNISTS THOUGHT HE WAS PLANNING BIG MOVE, AND REACTED BY CLOSING ROAD TO MILITARY TRAFFIC, ALTHOUGH CIVILIAN TRAFFIC CONTINUES. MOST OF CLASHES REPORTED HAVE BEEN MINOR COMMUNIST ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST LOCAL TERRITORIAL FORCE OUTPOSTS AND STATIC DEFENSIVE POSITIONS, AND GROUND CONTACTS ALONG ROUTE 23. ON AUGUST 7 THERE WERE REPORTEDLY 10 VNAF AIR STRIKES AGAINST COMMUNIST TROOPS ALONG ROUTE 23, MORNING AUGUST 8 MR 3 CG LTG MINH AND 18TH DIVISION CG BG DAO WERE MEETING WITH LTC SON TO PLAN NEXT MOVE.

5. LTC SON TOLD CONSUL HIS STAFF HAD INTERCEPTED A COMMUNIST RADIO COMMUNICATION INDICATING THAT THE VC WOULD PRESS ATTACKS IN GVN REAR AREAS IN RETALIATION FOR ARVN ACTION "TO THE NORTH".

6. CONSUL VISITING ICCS POINT OF ENTRY TEAMSITE IN VUNG TAU CAME UPON SIX POLES, FOUR HUNGARIANS, AND TWO INDONESIANS, ALL VERY PLEASED WITH THEIR LOCATION. POLES SAID THEY WERE NOW BEING ROTATED INTO VUNG TAU FOR A MONTH AT A TIME.

WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 14340 081219Z

MARTIN

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NNN

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